Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-107
Tuesday
4 June 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-107 *4 June 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Issue Communique *[Riyadh TV]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Ministerial Source on PLO-Syrian 'Agreement' *[VOM]* 2

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Ministerial Conference Opens in Vienna *[AFP]* 2
Ministers on Production Freeze *[AFP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

National Election Campaign Begins 1 Jun *[Algiers Radio]* 4
FIS, Others, React to President's Address *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Ministry Issues Communique on Civil Disobedience *[Algiers TV]* 5
Further FIS Clashes With Police Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 5

Egypt

U.S. Secretary of Defense Departs Cairo 4 Jun *[MENA]* 5
Agreement 'In Principle' To Send Troops to Kuwait *[MENA]* 6

Morocco

Spokesman Denies Report on Meeting With Polisario *[MAP]* 6
Rumors of Explosives Aboard Plane Denied *[MAP]* 6

Sudan

Ethiopian "President," Al-Bashir Meeting *[SUNA]* 6
Al-Bashir Meets IMF Delegation, Notes Needs *[Omdurman Radio]* 6
Iranian Military Delegation Arrives 30 May *[SUNA]* 6
Al-Bashir Ready 'To Impose Peace by Force' *[Omdurman Radio]* 7

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Diplomatic Ties Downgraded With 6 Arab States *[KUNA]* 8
Amiri Decree Sets General Election for Oct 92 *[KUNA]* 8
Minister Assails Jordanian Media 'Campaign' *[KUNA]* 9
Sentencing Postponed in 'Collaborating' Case *[KUNA]* 10
PRC Envoy Praises 'Special Status' of Relations *[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 23 May]* 10

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Plan to Supply Israel With Oil *[SPA]* 10

United Arab Emirates

Soviet First Deputy Defense Minister Arrives *[WAKH]* 11

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Presides Over RCC Meetings 12
1 Jun Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 12
3 Jun Meeting *[INA]* 12
4 Jun Meeting *[INA]* 12
Information Minister Denies Ramadan Statements *[INA]* 12
Memo to UN Lists Airspace Violations by U.S. *[BAghdad Radio]* 12
Engineer Cited on Oil Output, Reconstruction *[INA]* 12
State Regains Control of Flour Mills, Bakeries *[Baghdad Radio]* 13
Vegetable Imports Planned To Overcome 'Sabotage' *[INA]* 13
'Aziz Interviewed on Outbreak of Gulf War *[Istanbul MILLIYET 30 May]* 13
Further on Interview *[Istanbul MILLIYET 31 May]* 14
Opposition Claims Saddam Assassination Attempt *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 15
Hammadi's Family Reportedly Sentenced to Death *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 15
'Heavy Clashes,' Casualties Reported in North *[Ankara TV]* 15
Kurds Said Prevented From Returning Home *[Tehran International]* 16

ISRAEL

Shamir To Tell Bush 'No More Concessions' *[HA'ARETZ 4 Jun]* 17
Shamir To Respond Soon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Shamir Says Egypt Not Helping Peace Process *[IDF Radio]* 17
Shamir Comments on Meetings With King Husayn *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Shamir Opposes 'Jordan Is Palestine' Notion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Planes Return Safely After Raid Near Sidon *[IDF Radio]* 17
MK's Charge 'Huge' Building Drive in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Sharon Responds *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Sharon Notes Expansion of Jericho Settlement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Jun]* 18

JORDAN

King Husayn's LE POINT Interview Reported *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Jun]* 19
Al-Masri Comments on King's LE POINT Interview *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Official Stresses Commitment to Boycott on Israel *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Jun]* 21
Liberties Committee Protests Kuwaiti Practices *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 1 Jun]* 21

LEBANON

Syria's Al-Shar', Buwayz Hold News Conference *[Damascus TV]* 23
LF Voices Position on Treaty With Syria *[VOL]* 23
Palestinians Say 2 Killed in 3 Jun Raid *[Beirut Radio]* 23
Fatah Spokesman Comments *[VOL]* 24
4 Jun Israeli Air Raid in South Reported *[VOL]* 24
Further on Raid *[Beirut Radio]* 24
Second Raid Reported *[VOL]* 24
25 Casualties Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 24
Palestinians Training in Camps *[VOL]* 24
SLA Clashes Reported During Israeli Air Raid *[VOL]* 24

SYRIA

Tutwiler's Statements on Lebanon Treaty Cited *[Damascus TV]* 25
Al-Shar', Delegation Return From Beirut *[SANA]* 25
Minister Urges Continued Peace Efforts *[WAKH]* 25

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Radio Views Cheney Mideast Visit, Arms Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 26
Majles Speaker Karrubi on U.S. Policy in Iraq *[Paris LE FIGARO 25-26 May]* 26
Optimism Toward U.S. Termed 'Foolish, Treacherous' *[IRNA]* 27
Reportage on Velayati Visit to Brazil *[cross-reference]* 28
Velayati Returns *[IRNA]* 28
Reporters Told of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations *[Tehran Radio]* 28
Habibi Urges Payment of Reparations by Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 28
Rafsanjani Sends Message to Khamene'i *[Tehran Radio]* 28

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministerial Council Issue Communique

LD0406015191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states began the final meeting of the 39th session of the Ministerial Council in the Conference Hall of the Meridien Hotel in al-Khubar this afternoon.

His Excellency Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, the secretary general of the GCC, read out the council's final communique at the session. The Ministerial Council reviewed the regional events and the situation in the region in light of the process of implementing the Security Council resolutions relating to the Iraqi regime's aggression against the State of Kuwait and reiterated that there must be complete implementation, without delay, of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In this respect, the council welcomes the issuance of Security Council Resolution 692 concerning the establishment of a fund for the payment of compensation and the formation of a committee to manage the fund, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 674, 686, and 687. These resolutions held Iraq responsible, in accordance with international law, for any direct loss or direct damage, including the damage inflicted on the environment and the depletion of natural resources or damage caused to foreign governments, their nationals, or their companies as a result of Iraq's illegal invasion and occupation of the State of Kuwait.

The council expresses its satisfaction at the setting up of a demilitarized zone on the border between Kuwait and Iraq and the deployment of UN observation forces. It welcomes the establishment of a committee to demarcate the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, in implementation of Security Council Resolution 687.

While expressing its satisfaction at the continuation of the firm international position that demands the full and quick implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Ministerial Council puts on record its great displeasure and concern about the Iraqi authorities' procrastination in carrying out the resolutions related to the release of the Kuwaiti citizens and nationals of other states who are detained in Iraq and about the fact that the Iraqi authorities have ignored international efforts to secure the release of these prisoners and detainees.

The Ministerial Council urges the Security Council to step up political pressure to oblige the Iraqi regime fully to implement all the UN resolutions related to this humanitarian issue and to secure the return of the detainees and hostages without delay, in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the cease-fire conditions.

The council condemns the statements made recently by the vice president of the Iraqi regime which indicate aggressive, expansionist intentions which are contrary to Iraq's obligations in accordance with the Security Council resolutions that led to the cease-fire.

While denouncing the issuance of such statements, the Ministerial Council underlines the resolutions of the GCC Higher Council in its previous sessions to the effect that the security of the council's members states is an indivisible whole. In continuation of the consultations pertaining to the relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the council, while reiterating its affirmation of the need and eagerness to find a common platform for constructive cooperation between the GCC and Iran, is looking forward to the beginning of a stage of cooperation that serves the common interests of their two peoples and ways of strengthening prosperity and stability in the region.

The council follows with great interest the international efforts aimed at bringing about a lasting peace and comprehensive stability in the Arab region. Out of its full conviction of, and its known and firm policy affirming everything likely to realize security and stability for the states of the Middle East region, and to enable them to continue the march of their people's growth, prosperity, and development, the Council welcomes U.S. President George Bush's initiative aimed at removing weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region.

The council expresses its full support for the lofty efforts being made by the United States to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Palestinian question, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The council again expresses its support for the proposal aimed at holding an early peace conference, now that the circumstances are available to work for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, and achieving a just and overall settlement that brings back the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine within the framework of the new international order based on cooperation and entrenching international legitimacy. Out of its eagerness to bolster the peace process, ensure the success of the current efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and find a just solution to the Palestinian question, the council reaffirms the GCC's preparedness to participate as observer, if invited, in the proposed peace conference, represented by its secretary-general.

The council notes with great concern the deterioration of the security and food- and health-related situation in the Arab occupied territories under Israeli occupation, and it condemns the increasing practices of repression and persecution by the occupation authorities against civilians, and the rising number of the Palestinian dead, wounded, and detainees. The council urges the international community energetically to stand up to prevent the continuation of the settlement policy practiced by Israel in the occupied Arab territories.

The Ministerial Council follows with complete satisfaction the positive developments in fraternal Lebanon and the successes realized by the Lebanese Government in imposing its authority over Lebanese territory. The council reaffirms the support of the GCC member states for the al-Ta'if agreement, and it calls for the full and

unconditional implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 425 and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon without delay.

The council highlights the decision of the Arab summit calling for the setting up of a fund to support Lebanon, and it urges the international community to contribute to it. The council welcomes the signing of the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Lebanese Republic and for the contribution of this to the development of relations between the two fraternal countries so as to guarantee the realization of the objectives and aspirations of their two peoples to stability and prosperity. The council also expresses its hope that this historic step to entrench the distinguished relations between the two countries will meet their eagerness to be in solidarity with one another and to coordinate efforts to achive their common objectives.

The council follows with great concern the events in Somalia and urges all the nationalist forces to agree to a national formula that guarantees the protection of Somalia's unity and safety. The council also hopes to see security and stability prevail in the whole region of the Horn of Africa.

The council takes notice of the resuits of the committee on financial and economic cooperation and the committee of the undersecretaries of the ministries of finance in the GCC states and the implementation of the resolution of the Higher Council concerning accelerating the implementation of the provisions of the unified economic agreement [words indistinct]. It emphasizes the need for the specilized committee to speed up the implementation of this task.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the historic decision by their majesties and highnesses to sign the agreement setting up the Cooperation Council on 25 May 1981, the Ministerial Council expresses the most sincere feelings of congratulations to their majesties and highnesses—leaders of the the GCC states—and it expresses hope that this march realizes the aspirations of the citizen and all the objectives which are embodied in the basic statute and all that entrenches the civilized contribution of this area to all mankind.

Issued at the town of al-Khubar on 20 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1411 AH, corresponding to 3 June 1991. Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs

Ministerial Source on PLO-Syrian 'Agreement'

NC0406100891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] An informed ministerial source told AL-NAHAR that during talks between PLO and Syrian officials, an agreement was reached that Palestinians in southern Lebanon will not be disarmed until Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad receives guarantees from Washington about Israel's commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. The source said that the Palestinian delegation informed the Syrian president that the card of the Palestinian presence in the south is in his hands. They also agreed on a formula for ending internal Palestinian conflicts. The source noted that the Palestinian-Syrian talks resulted in a two-track agreement: The first pertains to the Palestinian issue under which the PLO will have the freedom to choose its representatives in a joint Arab delegation; and the second pertains to the Palestinian presence in the south.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Ministerial Conference Opens in Vienna

AU0406102891 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Vienna, June 4 (AFP)—Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) began a conference here Tuesday to set production levels for the second half of this year.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazir reiterated before the talks began behind closed doors that he was against any reduction of the current production ceiling of 22.3 barrels a day, but that prices would probably improve by the end of the year.

His Iranian counterpart Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said "we cannot accept an increase of the ceiling," and that if the OPEC target price of 21 dollars a barrel were to be reached "we must reduce the current ceiling."

Ministers from several of the 13 OPEC member countries had said on arriving here that they were in favour of a freeze at the current output ceiling or a reduction for the third quarter of the year, with a further meeting in September to review the situation and set a ceiling for the fourth quarter.

"There are two trends, and in my opinion that which would maintain the current production level ... will carry the day," said Gabon Oil Minister Jean Ping.

The other 11 OPEC members had boosted output to compensate for lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil due to the Gulf crisis, and agreed in March to set a ceiling of 22.3 million barrels a day in the continued absence of Kuwaiti or Iraqi exports.

Kuwait's oil wells were badly damaged in the Gulf war, and Iraqi oil is still subject to a U.N. embargo sparked by its invasion of Kuwait in August.

OPEC estimates are forecasting that demand will rise to 22.8 million barrels a day in the third quarter and 23.7 million in the fourth.

Ministers on Production Freeze

AU0306111591 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Vienna, June 3 (AFP)—Indonesian Oil Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita on Monday said OPEC should freeze its production ceiling at the current level for the third quarter of the year, and meet again in September to set fourth quarter output levels.

"I think the present level of production is sufficient for the second and third quarter" he said on arriving here for a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"I would suggest that we should wait until September to decide," the Indonesian minister said, noting that the market situation and the situation in member countries Iraq and Kuwait following the Gulf war in the coming quarter were unknown factors.

United Arab Emirates Minister Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf also spoke out for a freeze at the current level of 22.3 million barrels a day and a possible further meeting in September when he arrived in Vienna Sunday. He had also said before leaving for the meeting that he believed OPEC's reference price of 21 dollars a barrel could be achieved at the end of the third quarter or early in the fourth, and that demand for OPEC oil would rise to 23.8 million barrels a day from the recent 21 million.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Celestino Armas had said on arrival in Vienna Sunday that he hoped the 21 dollar a barrel reference price could be achieved by the end of the year.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Agazadeh refused to comment on Iran's position when he arrived in the Austrian capital for the OPEC meeting.

The conference is to decide whether the 13-member OPEC should amend its current output ceiling but faces the problem of not knowing when Iraq and Kuwait will be able to resume oil deliveries. Other OPEC members upped production to compensate for lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil when the Gulf crisis began last year, sparking an international embargo on products from the two countries. The 11 other OPEC members then agreed in March in the wake of the Gulf war to limit production to 22.3 million barrels a day in the second quarter. Iraqi exports are still embargoed by the United Nations, and resumed Kuwait production is still compromised by the destruction of its oil wells.

The first plenary session of OPEC ministers was not scheduled until Tuesday as Saudia Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazir and OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria were not due to arrive until late Monday.

The Nicosia-based industry newsletter, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, predicted in its latest edition Monday that the OPEC ministers would probably freeze the current output ceiling for the third quarter, but would increase it for the fourth. Some OPEC producers foresaw a "progressively tightening oil market" in the second half of the year, particularly as no significant exports were expected from Kuwait and Iraq, and were therefore advocating higher production levels. But others, MEES said, point to "weak supply/demand fundamentals" and that fact that prices have been averaging 17 dollars a barrel against an OPEC reference price of 21 dollars. These members are arguing that OPEC should consider a cutback over the next three months, MEES added.

Algeria

National Election Campaign Begins 1 Jun

LD0106141991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The national political scene today enters a new stage of the time of democratic change, which the country has known since the establishment of political plurality with the constitution of 23 February 1989. This stage is represented by the election campaign for the early legislative elections, scheduled for 27 June, which will last until 19 June and officially starts today.

This election campaign will enable all the accredited political formations which decided to enter the battle of the parliamentary elections, the first of their kind in the era of the multiparty system, to highlight their platforms and principles through multifaced political advertising which is legally adopted in order to convince the Algerian voters to approve these platforms and vote for them.

The representatives of the various political parties started yesterday to record their statements through the national radio, which is starting to broadcast them today, in accordance to the program planned by the Higher Council of Information concerned with the election campaign.

The preparation for the election campaign is, however, not normal but has been characterized at times by argument, which is natural and comes within the context of the traditions of democratic experience. Many parties have expressed reservations with the election laws and the new administrative division, and some of them have even called for their abrogation. In the forefront of these political formations comes the Islamic Salvation Front which has called for the organization of early presidential elections to coincide with the legislative elections. [passage omitted]

FIS, Others, React to President's Address

LD0306154291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] [Announcer] Following the speech by the president of the republic, the first reaction came from the first and second men in the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], who called on the militants of the front to continue the strike, which has entered its 10th consecutive day. On the general atmosphere in Constantine following the president's speech, here is a report from colleague Rabi' Da'as:

[Da'as] Activities in Constantine continue normally, as most of the institutions are working regularly, especially the educational institutions, except for the central university, the doors of which remain closed due to the strike by students affiliated with FIS. They are demanding a reconsideration of the university reforms, particularly with regard to university vacations. We also note that some FIS-controlled municipalities, including the municipality of Constantine, remain closed, and are subject to protests by citizens whose businesses have been disrupted.

Regarding the lack of gasoline at filling stations, the problem is on the way to being solved after the intervention of the gendarme at Bounouara center in the suburbs of Constantine, where the striking workers had constructed barricades. We learned this morning from Constantine that the center has gone back to normal functioning and is providing filling stations with gas—an item of news pleasing the citizens, particularly car drivers.

Within this atmosphere, the militants of FIS continue their protest activities. We note in this regard a number of rallies, followed by a huge march in the streets of Constantine, a march characterized by organization and calm.

[Announcer] And from the city of Setif, this is a report from our correspondent Faysal Ghamis:

[Ghamis] In today's gathering called by the militants of FIS at 8 May Square, the speakers concentrated for the first time on the fact that the FIS is not a front of persons, but a front of the Koran and the Sunnah [the "way" or "path" of the Prophet], which will not disappear by the disappearance of its members. One even said: We are not followers of Abbasi Madani; we are struggling for an Islamic solution and the realization of an Islamic state. Because such an utterance is the first of its kind since the protest by the FIS, observers believe it is an indication of something happening at the top of the FIS, which might confirm yesterday's rumors that Hachemi Sahnouni and Ali Beladj have taken over the leadership of the FIS.

The speech by the president was received by the militants of the FIS with severe criticism and was criticized by its speakers as having not responded to the demands of the nation. Also in Setif, responsible sources confirmed that the chairman of the consultative council in El Eulma and the FIS head of the municipal council resigned their posts yesterday following differences between them.

[Announcer] And from Annaba we have received these impressions of the speech by President Chadli Bendjedid, recorded by colleague Abderrahman Fakhar:

[Unidentified voice] The speech by the president, awaited by all Algerians, has come at the right time to answer many questions. It came at a decisive time for the future of the country. By addressing the nation, the president renewed his commitment to reinforcing the democratic course. I also share the president's view on placing the interest of the nation above every other consideration. The political maneuvers in the quest for power, and power alone, no longer have justification. Therefore the ballot box alone remains the arbiter.

[Second unidentified voice] We were awaiting that speech, in fact, a day earlier, because the situation in the country can not bear silence any longer. Despite this delay, the speech, I believe, has answered a number of questions raised at the level of the national political arena. The strength of the speech lies, I feel, in the assurances the president of the republic has commited himself to in providing the reassuring security atmosphere that will guarantee the success of the coming legislative elections. This is what was required. What is important is that this

speech finds its translation in practice, in ensuring the reinforcement of the democratic course.

[Third unidentified voice] Concerning the speech by the president, the first observation of any citizen is that it was a speech permeated with calm. Second, it was not even an indirect response to the demands of the FIS, and third, the speech provided reassurance about the situation in the country, and also regarding the future, particularly as we are living through difficult conditions. The whole country is living through difficult conditions—the legislative elections, and so on. The other thing is that the state is intent on creating calm conditions and reinforcing democracy in the country.

Ministry Issues Communique on Civil Disobedience

LD0306205491 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] The Interior Ministry communique, which we have been expecting, says:

The unlimited general strike has failed. For more than a week groups in limited number have been persistently trying, and with all means, to obstruct some vital activities. Demonstrating in the streets was the sole means of expressing civil disobedience, and in order to feed their marches the organizers of civil disobedience have been more and more mobilizing irresponsible elements, as well as children.

The result, after 10 days, is a climate of insecurity and obstruction of the normal movement of citizens. This situation is today bearing real dangers to general security and civil peace, without political, social, or economic objectives. The authorities inform citizens that, from today, a number of measures have been taken to reestablish the normal process of activities. These measures will be carried out in all severity, wherever it is necessary. These measures concern:

1. Stoppage of work in local administrations, social sectors, and institutions. Officials in charge, at all levels, have received instructions to take the maximum legal measures regarding persons who obstruct the running of public services.

2. Unauthorized gatherings in public streets, under the direct responsibility of their organizers, will be dispersed by the public security services, who in this matter will be taking all measures permitted by the law. Organizers of these gatherings will be sued in accordance with the law.

3. The local authorities, institutions, and administrations concerned with the management of public services for cleaning, health, and strategic supplies have received instructions to take, from today, all necessary measures for their good functioning.

The public authorities make an appeal to the citizens in these extraordinary circumstances to be calm, vigilant, and disciplined in order to ensure a quick return to normal life.

Further FIS Clashes With Police Reported

LD0306200791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] According to an APS dispatch, students and professors on strike at Algiers central faculties organized a gathering at the central university building in Algiers at noon today, before trying to go out on a march. The security forces prevented the march, barring the students and professors from conducting it. Streets in the vicinity of the university were barricaded at midday by the Fourth Forces [special forces], who used tear gas, even before the students tried to emerge from the university, in order to disperse some of the demonstrators who had been gathering in the university area.

At around 1430, the organizers of the march gave the green light for the procession, which was led by Cheikh Abassi Madani in the company of a number of professors, to go ahead. As soon as the first wave of demonstrators came through the gate, the security forces acted to prevent the remainder of the participants from marching. Several students then fled and ran back to the univesity; some of them were suffering from the tear gas reaching them from outside the university compound.

In Taref the security forces intervened to reopen the municipality building by force. Two members of the security forces suffered injuries and 13 demonstrators were arrested.

In another development, clashes also took place between Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] supporters and their opponents at Ben M'hidi municipality in the same region. Five people were injured as a result, one of whom is in a critical condition.

Egypt

U.S. Secretary of Defense Departs Cairo 4 Jun

NC0406071291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Cheney was seen off at the airport by Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and a number of military officials.

During his visit to Cairo, Cheney held talks with Lt. Gen. Tantawi and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation, regional security arrangements in the wake of Kuwait's liberation, efforts to advance the Middle East peace process, and U.S. President George Bush's initiative to limit weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Cheney also visited Sinai, where he inspected the multinational force and early warning stations. He also visited the ancient sites of Sinai and Luxor.

Agreement 'In Principle' To Send Troops to Kuwait

NC0306074991 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 3 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—"AL-AHRAM" gave prominence on its front page to a dispatch by its Washington correspondent quoting the United States newspaper "THE WASHINGTON POST" as reporting that Egypt had agreed, in principle, on sending Egyptian forces to Kuwait to join peace-keeping forces for deployment along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border preliminary to raising an Arab peace-keeping force for deployment in the area.

"AL-AHRAM" quoted an Egyptian source as saying that Kuwait formally asked Egypt to dispatch forces to join in security arrangements and that Egypt had agreed to the request.

THE WASHINGTON POST report also said that the United States was considering supplying Egypt with F-16 fighter aircraft. Egypt had asked the United States for new tanks, troop transport vehicles, artillery pieces, Apache helicopters and auxiliary equipment. Egypt will receive 46 F-11 aircraft in October this year and 46 more in 1993, tha newspaper was quoted to have said.

Morocco

Spokesman Denies Report on Meeting With Polisario

LD0106132191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Rabat, 1 June 1991, MAP—A spokesman for the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has categorically denied an AFP report datelined New York 30 May 1991 to the effect that the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, had asked to meet the secretary general of the so-called "Polisario Front".

Rumors of Explosives Aboard Plane Denied

LD0306161191 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Casablanca, 3 June 1991, MAP—Responsible sources at Royal Air Maroc categorically denied that a Boeing 727 aircraft, flying between Amsterdam and Casablanca via Oujda, was forced to carry out an emergency landing at Fes-Sais airport last Monday, following a telephone call from an unknown man, informing of the presence of explosives on board the plane.

The same sources added that the aircraft was forced to land at Fes-Sais airport because of bad weather, thus denying the rumors on explosives on board.

The Moroccan paper AL ALAM mentioned yesterday, Sunday, that the aircraft made an emergency landing and pointed out according to rumor, an unknown man announced, in a telephone call, the presence of explosives on board.

Sudan

Ethiopian "President," Al-Bashir Meeting

EA0206171891 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 June (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir had discussed with the Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. The Ethiopian president gave him details on settlement of internal situation in Ethiopia following the flight of former Ethiopian [words indistinct].

State minister for Presidency Affairs and consultant of the RCC, Al-Fatih Orwa, attended the meeting. [Words indistinct] following participation in London peace talks.

He was received at Khartoum airport by deputy chairman of RCC, Major General al-Zubayr M. Salih, RCC member Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, general secretary of the RCC, Brigaider Abd-al-Rahim M. Husayn and Al-Sadiq Bakhit, information consultant on the RCC chairman.

Al-Bashir Meets IMF Delegation, Notes Needs

EA0106204891 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 May 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] and Ministerial Council chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stressed that Sudan has a serious program for solving economic problems in accordance with the three-fold program of the Salvation Revolution. This transpired yesterday when he met the IMF delegation that is visiting the country to conduct routine annual discussions.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar requested that the IMF and all other international institutions deal with Sudan in a realistic way so that they may help it emerge from the economic hardships which it inherited over the years and which have been aggravated by other factors that the government did not desire, such as drought and the Gulf war. His excellency further stressed to the delegation Sudan's keen interest in cooperating with the IMF.

Meanwhile, the delegation handed his excellency the RCC chairman a letter from the IMF's executive director concerning possible prospects for cooperation between the Fund and Sudan.

Iranian Military Delegation Arrives 30 May

EA0206210291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 May 91

[Summary From Poor Reception] Khartoum, 31 May (SUNA)—A high-ranking Iranian military delegation arrived in the country yesterday headed by Lieutenant Gholam Hasan. The visit comes within the framework of cooperation, exchange visits, and to put the final touches to the military discussions which were begun during the visit by the (?chairman of the Revolution Command Council to Iran).

Al-Bashir Ready 'To Impose Peace by Force'

EA0106204091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 May 91

[Text] This afternoon, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, addressed a well-attended rally at Freedom Square in Ubayyid. He received a pledge of loyalty from the people of Ubayyid to (?apply) God's law. His excellency stressed that his visit to the state of Kurdufan comes within the framework of his tours of the different states of Sudan to inspect the conditions of the citizens and to solve their problems.

He said: Here we are today to celebrate together the opening of the University of Kurdufan, which used to be a dream, but has now become a tangible reality.

Lt. Gen al-Bashir confirmed the revolution's interest in achieving peace and referred to the negative effects on the rebellion in southern Kurdufan. He reviewed the efforts that have been made to achieve peace, starting with the national peace conference and the dispatch of delegations to neighboring countries to explain the dimensions of this issue. He said that the revolution is making preparations to impose peace by force if the outlaws refuse to listen to the voice of reason.

He said that the revolution approved the federal system to enable the masses to tackle their own problems. The revolution also worked hard to distribute the governorates to reduce the administrative apparatus. The governors were chosen from among the best young men of this nation after giving them the necessary training so that they may be worthy of emulation by the citizens under them. The native administration [al-idarah al-ahliyah] has been restored and given legal competence to discharge its duties in the required manner.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar directed the officials of the state and mechanized agriculture to provide agricultural inputs for the current season. He also directed the manager of the Sudanese Bank of Agriculture to go to Kurdufan to open a number of branches for the bank in the state to satisfy the needs of the farmers. He also directed the governor of the Central Bank to provide cash to enable the citizens to buy their requirements in readiness for the autumn.

He announced that the revolution has declared war on thirst in the state and pointed out that support would also be available to contain the thirst problem in Kurdufan.

He said: We grant those who joined the rebellion an opportunity by declaring a general amnesty for them. The amnesty will also apply to the so-called group of We Kadugli so that they may reconsider. He called on those who have gone against the consensus of the nation under the pretext of liberation to consider the destruction and ruin that befell the Nubah Mountain region, compared to the peace and stability the area used to enjoy.

He appealed to all the outlaws to return home and join the rehabilitation and development projects. He stressed the revolution's determination to restore stability to the areas of southern Kurdufan.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir opened the University of Kurdufan and inaugurated the university students' call-up. His excellency donated 25,000,000 Sudanese pounds as support for the university. His excellency spoke about the revolution in higher education, which includes opening more universities in the rural areas and the expansion of admission to provide opportunities for all students to join the higher education establishments.

He said that four more universities would be opened next year: the universities of Isma'il al-Azhari; Al-Imam al-Mahdi; Upper Nile; and Bahr al-Ghazal. He called for the distribution of faculties among the towns of the states to help achieve local development.

Kuwait

Diplomatic Ties Downgraded With 6 Arab States

LD0306170391 London KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Jun (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti paper AL-FAJR AL-JADID has quoted a Kuwaiti official source, which it did not name, as saying that Kuwait has recalled its ambassadors to Tunisia, Mauritania, Algeria, Yemen, Sudan, and Jordan for consultation. The source explained, however, that this step does not mean that diplomatic relations with these six countries are being severed, but it does mean that the level of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and these countries is being lowered.

The sources said Kuwait has asked its ambassadors to these countries to remain in Kuwait and not to return to their posts at the Kuwaiti embassies in those countries. The source added that such a measures is customary in international relations, especially when a state adopts a hostile stand such as that which those countries took against Kuwait.

The source expressed his regret for the stands of those countries through their continuous propaganda campaigns in their press and information media, "as if they are living on another planet, far away from current events and from reality."

Amiri Decree Sets General Election for Oct 92

LD0206120591 London KUNA in Arabic 1123 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 2 June 91, KUNA—His Highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today issued an Amiri decree on holding a general election in Kuwait in October 1992 in order to choose a new National Council [majlis al-watani].

His Highness also issued a decree calling on the National Council to hold an ordinary session on 9 July, and on appointing five members of the government to the council.

The following is the text of the Amiri decree on holding a general election to choose a new National Council and defining its duties.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Thanks be to God who granted us victory and extended to us during our plight his assistance and protection by warding off aggression and making the aggressor's plot backfire on him; and liberating our good land and its patient people from an unparalleled wanton and criminal occupation in history of mankind.

Our dear homeland is facing a fateful period full of great challenges no less serious than the challenges of the period of struggle and liberation.

Having issued an Amiri decree on 22 April 1990 to create a National Council which would play the role of a parliament in helping and controlling the government as well as affirming the principle of shura [consultation] and popular participation in matters of government and legislation during the period of the halt to normal parliamentary life; however, the progress of such a council came to an end. Our dear homeland was hit by aggression and an unjust Iraqi occupation during which the noble Kuwaiti people suffered all kinds of oppression and torture and the hand of rancour and tyranny proceeded to play havoc by sabotaging and destroying private and public utilities. However, despite all this, that hand could not succeed in harming the strength and cohesion of the national unity, which remained solid as a mountain, rejecting aggression by words and deeds until God granted us victory; Kuwait was liberated and the aggressor was defeated, thanks to the help of brothers and friends.

Having announced in the last 10 days of this year's blessed month of Ramadan our determination to hold general elections sometime next year to choose a new National Council in accordance with the articles of the 1962 Constitution, we have decided that such elections will be held, God willing, during the month of October 1992, a date which will be suitable for our situation, given the unjust Iraqi invasion, by which time suitable conditions might be present for the holding of such elections.

His Highness continued, regarding the Amiri decree: Our beloved country is going through an extremely important and critical phase during which policies and programs for reconstruction in all aspects of life are being shaped. Because of the heavy burden shouldered by the government in this connection so that the policies and decisions of the government may continue to express the wishes of the citizens; in order to emphasize the importance of people's participation in pushing through the reconstruction of Kuwait; and while awaiting the election of the members of the new National Council through general elections that will take place on the above-mentioned date, it was considered to be right that the National Council should resume its sessions until the publication of the decree calling on the electorate to choose the members of the new National Council, while noting some amendments regarding the tasks of the Council.

These tasks will be restricted to what has been mentioned in Clauses 2,3,4,5, and 6 of Article 1 of the Amiri decree on setting up the National Council. This excludes the task mentioned in Clause 1 of this article regarding the study of the negative aspects that at one point in time led to the discontinuation of the desired cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

His highness added in the Amiri decree:

Following the aforementioned;

After taking cognizance of the Constitution and the Amiri Decree of 3 July 1986 and the Amiri Decree of 22 April 1990, creating the National Council;

Article One: General elections to choose the new National Council will be held during the month of October 1992.

Article Two: The validity of the Amiri Decree of 3 July 1986 will come to an end from the date of the holding of the new National Council in accordance with the previous article.

Article Three: The validity of the Amiri Decree of 22 April 1990 creating the National Council will come to an end from the date on which a decree inviting people to elect members for the new National Council is issued.

Article Four: The National Council exercises until the date stated in the previous article the tasks stipulated in Clauses 2,3,4,5 and 6 of the Amiri decree creating the National Council.

Article Five: The prime minister and ministers, within their individual jurisdiction, have the duty to implement this decree; it is valid from the date of its issue and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[signed] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Follows the text of the decree calling the National Council to convene its second ordinary session;

Decree No. 91

Call for the National Council to hold its second ordinary session.

After taking cognizance of the Amiri decree issued on 22 April 1990 to set up the National Council;

In accordance with the report of the prime minister; following the agreement of the Council of Ministers, we have decreed the following:

Article One: The National Council is called on to convene its second ordinary session on Tuesday morning 9 July 1991.

Article Two: the prime minister should implement this decree. The decree should be submitted to the Council of Ministers and should be published in the Official Gazette.

[signed] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah

The prime minister, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

Follows the text of the decree defining the venue of the National Council:

After taking cognizance of the Amiri decree issued on 22 April 1990 on setting up the National Council, on the basis of the report of the prime minister and after the approval of the Council of Ministers, we have decreed the following:

Article One: The National Council will convene at the building of the municipality of the city of Kuwait in al-Hilali Street.

Article Two: The prime minister and the ministers, in all matters concerning each one of them, have to implement this decree which will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah

The prime minister, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

An Amiri decree has also been issued on the appointment of ministers as members of the National Council. Follows the full text of the decree:

After cognizance of the Amiri decree issued on 22 April 1990 on setting up the National Council;

After taking cognizance of the Amiri decree issued on 28 June 1990 on the appointment of the members of the National Council;

After taking cognizance of the decree regarding the formation of the government published on 20 April 1991; We have decreed the following:

Article One: The following ministers are to be appointed as members of the National Council:

1. Ibrahim Majid al-Shahin, minister of state for municipal affairs.
2. Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, minister of the interior.
3. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, minister of information.
4. Dari 'abdallah al'Uthman, minister of state for Cabinet affairs.

5. 'Abd-al-Wahab Sulayman al-Fawzan, minister of public health.

Article Two: Annulment of anything that contradicts the provisions of this decree.

Article Three: This decree is valid from its date of issue and is to be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Minister Assails Jordanian Media 'Campaign'

LD0106220191 London KUNA in Arabic 1905 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has denounced the deceptive campaign launched by the suspect media that are spreading falsehoods and lies about Kuwait. Ever since the criminal Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, these suspect media organs have continued to spread the most appalling deceptions, lies, and malicious allegations against the leadership and people of Kuwait. "The only thing this could indicate is the fact that the hireling and suspicious hands that encourage these media organs to keep spreading lies against Kuwait are the same hands which blessed and supported the criminal Iraqi aggression."

In reply to a question by KUNA here today about the suspect campaigns launched by the Jordanian media against Kuwait, Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub said: "These campaigns which some Jordanian newspapers are still carrying out against Kuwait show the extent of their bad intentions, lack of balance, and inability to absorb the facts and simple axioms of history, especially now that the whole world has exposed the inhuman practices of the Iraqi aggression against the people and land of Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti information minister pointed out that "the unjust falsehoods spread by the yellow press, especially the Jordanian press, against Kuwait and its people are aimed at a naive distortion of the truth, which inspires feelings of pain and pity for the miserable level to which the Jordanian media have stooped. This has taken place in spite of the true situation and the Kuwaiti Government's assertions, which were proved by unbiased media and the concerned international organizations, about the establishment of security and stability in Kuwait and the protection

of everyone there, whether a Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti resident, according to the principles of law and justice in which Kuwait firmly believes, as they stem from our tolerant faith and lofty traditions."

Dr. al-Ya'qub stated: "The rancorous voices which advertise the claims about the treatment of Palestinians and other residents in Kuwait are the very same voices which stood behind the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resulting destruction, killing, looting, and displacement unprecedented in history." The information minister added: "Where were those Jordanian papers and media, today shedding tears over their fabricated claims, when the Kuwait people were suffering from the aggressor regime? Their very silence toward the horrible practices carried out against the Kuwaiti people is a clear indication of their lack of objectivity, and their attempt to mislead public opinion by feeding it false information is incompatible with the noble mission of information.

"Members of the Palestinian community who visited His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah a few days ago condemned and denounced the untrue hearsay reports and rumors about the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait circulated by some malicious information media. They emphasized to His Highness that they are living in tranquillity among their kinfolk and brothers and wish Kuwait and its people continuous progress and prosperity under the leadership of his highness the amir and his highness the loyal heir apparent, may God protect them. This is a clear message addressed to whomever it may concern and to whomever is trying to sow doubts about the mission of benevolent Kuwait."

Sentencing Postponed in 'Collaborating' Case

LD0106200391 London KUNA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 Jun (KUNA)—Judge Muhammad Bin-Naji, head of the first chamber of the Court Martial, has postponed until 15 June the deliberations and announcement of the sentences against 25 of the persons accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation authorities during the occupation of Kuwait by issuing the so-called AL-NIDA paper.

During today's sitting the judge heard the testimony of witnesses for and against the accused. [passage omitted]

The general prosecutor has demanded the harshest sentences against the accused in the case of the so-called AL-NIDA paper, while the defense asked for commutation of the sentences and acquittal.

It should be recalled that among the accused are six women, four of whom are Jordanian, one Iraqi, and one Kuwaiti.

PRC Envoy Praises 'Special Status' of Relations

PM2405152191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 May 91 p 2

[Interview with PRC Ambassador to Kuwait Guan Zihuai by Ibrahim al-Sharqawi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Sharqawi] How would you evaluate Kuwaiti-Chinese relations?

[Guan] Kuwaiti-Chinese relations have always been cordial, staunch, and developed. And this year is 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and the PRC. The State of Kuwait has a special status because it was the first Gulf Cooperation Council state to establish diplomatic ties with China. And we, of course, appreciate this vanguard role. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharqawi] What is China's role in the Gulf region's security?

[Guan] The main thing is that after the end of the Gulf war there was a need to guarantee respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Gulf region's countries without interference in their internal affairs. This is in addition to the need to maintain peaceful coexistence among the countries of this region, resolve disputes peacefully, and withdraw the foreign forces from the region.

As for security arrangements, we believe that these matters should be left to the peoples and states of this region to decide through consultation and dialogue, since it is their own destiny.

At the same time the United Nations should play a vital role for the sake of stabilizing security and peace in the Gulf. The best proof of this is the Security Council resolution on the deployment of UN military observation forces on the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq in order to carry out the tasks of observation and to prevent possible incidents.

[Al-Sharqawi] What is China's role in rebuilding Kuwait?

[Guan] The Chinese Government devotes the utmost attention to developing ties of economic, trade, and technical cooperation with Kuwait, especially as the State of Kuwait is now experiencing difficult conditions as a result of treacherous occupation and is trying to eliminate the effects of the large-scale destruction and devastation and extinguish the huge oil fires and then complete the rebuilding process.

All these are difficult tasks which require the hard work of the homeland's sons in addition to support and aid from fraternal and friendly states throughout the world. And many states have extended a hand of support to Kuwait. For its part, the Chinese Government seeks to develop relations with Kuwait, especially with regard to participating in and contributing to rebuilding Kuwait. For example, the Chinese Government has sent a team of specialized experts to join the other international companies in the operation to extinguish the oil fires.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Plan to Supply Israel With Oil

LD0306203291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2007 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Jun (SPA)—In a statement to SPA, a responsible source today denied a story published in the

newspaper "MISR AL-FATAH" under the headline: "Saudi Arabia Is Considering Supplying Israel With Oil." The source said: "It is regrettable that the said newspaper deliberately published news which is basically fabricated in whole and detail. This in spite of the fact that the so-called Husayn Khitab himself denied two days ago that he is representing any Saudi personality. He has also denied that he has any links with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The source added that the publication of this ridiculous report by a newspaper know for its style of intrigue and disinformation will be met by readers with ridicule and condemnation.

United Arab Emirates

Soviet First Deputy Defense Minister Arrives

JN0306195191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jun (WAKH)—General Kulikov, Soviet first deputy defense minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates. The Soviet official will hold talks with senior emirian officials on bilateral relations, especially in the military field.

Saddam Husayn Presides Over RCC Meetings

1 Jun Meeting

JN0106121991 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic Second Program 1200 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn presided over a Revolution Command Council [RCC] meeting this morning. The meeting was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The meeting was also attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, and a number of officials.

3 Jun Meeting

JN0306185291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, and Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn. A number of officials also attended.

4 Jun Meeting

JN0406100691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0949 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] this morning.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and a number of officials.

Information Minister Denies Ramadan Statements

JN0306184991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stated the following:

We have noted that certain Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies which have published an interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president of the Republic of Iraq, have attributed to his excellency certain remarks relating to Kuwait. These newspapers and news agencies have alleged that the vice president made statements that differ with Iraq's official and declared position to accept the UN resolutions relating to the question of Kuwait. We deny the statements attributed to the vice president over the question of Kuwait. What has been attributed to his excellency was not accurate. It was taken out of the context of the interview given by his excellency.

The culture and information minister added: While I deny the statements attributed to the vice president, I wish to say that his excellency is a member of the Revolution Command Council in the Republic of Iraq, which has made a clear decision to abrogate all the decisions and laws issued after 2 August 1990 regarding the question of Kuwait, and that Iraq's acceptance of the UN resolutions relating to the question of Kuwait, including Resolution 686 of 1991, is clear and has not been changed.

The culture and information minister concluded his statement by saying: The clamor fabricated over this issue is no more than an exposed attempt to create justifications used by certain parties to keep the blockade on Iraq although the justifications for this blockade are no longer valid now that Iraq has accepted the UN resolutions and abided by them.

Memo to UN Lists Airspace Violations by U.S.

JN0306150791 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have committed further violations of Iraqi airspace for purposes of observation and provocation.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative said that over 31 May-1 June, the Americans mounted 23 sorties in 11 formations and one individual sortie. The memorandum noted that the aircraft flew at 600-750 km per hour at medium altitudes mainly over the regions of Zakho, al-'Amadiyah, Irbil, Dahuk, and Mosul. On 1-2 June, the Americans flew a total of 15 sorties in seven formations and one individual sortie, the memorandum added. The aircraft traveled at 700-850 km per hour flying at medium altitudes mainly over the [word indistinct] areas.

Engineer Cited on Oil Output, Reconstruction

JN0206083891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—The production of crude oil from the southern region oil fields will rise to 1 million barrels per day [bpd] by the end of this year.

This came in a statement made to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH by engineer Rafid 'Abd-al-Halim, director general of the Southern Petroleum Organization, who pointed out that the organization's cadres managed, only six days after the troops of the aggressive alliance left Iraqi territory, to put out the fires started by these troops in five oil wells in the northern al-Rumaylah areas west of the city of al-Basrah.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the organization's cadres also managed to repair and maintain the piping system carrying crude oil, the gas isolation stations, the pumping stations terminal, alternative storage tankers, other complementary projects, the communications network, control equipment, and internal road networks.

The organization's director general went on to say that by mid-July, the output in the organization's work site in the northern al-Rumaylah oil fields, Nahr 'Umar, and al-Zubayr will reach 500,000 bpd.

State Regains Control of Flour Mills, Bakeries

JN0306151991 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] The National Assembly has voted in favor of a proposal to reimpose state control over all major flour mills and bakeries in Baghdad and the governorates which were sold to the private sector before the end of 1989.

In a session today chaired by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih within the series of sessions begun yesterday to discuss price hikes, the assembly decided to continue to apply the ration card system and to endeavor to increase the allocation according to the [word indistinct] needs. It also decided to add other (?items) to the card whenever possible, including tomato paste, canned cheese, canned meat, eggs, powdered milk, canned vegetables, school stationery, and dairy products, the local production of which will be subsidized.

The assembly recommended that the competent agencies import chicken, eggs, and hatching eggs to meet the market needs until poultry projects resume normal operations. The assembly also stressed that it was necessary to provide a means to stop the smuggling of sheep out of Iraq.

The assembly decided to continue to give support to the basic agricultural factors and reconsider the (?credit) policy of the Cooperative Agricultural Bank and the interest rates; to provide all possible facilities to encourage farmers to expand the areas cultivated with cereals and vegetables; to deal with idle factories specializing in food production, which suffer a shortage of the basic raw material needed to resume production; and to provide suitable support to the (?cooperative) sector to expand its marketing, production, and service activities.

Vegetable Imports Planned To Overcome 'Sabotage'

JN0206142291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1406 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—The Council of Ministers decided today to import vegetables to meet the local market's needs following the shortages during the current agricultural season.

In a statement to INA, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi added that the measure was taken to secure foodstuffs and overcome the negative effects of sabotage on the production of vegetables this season.

He noted that during a session chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, the Council of Ministers also discussed a number of topics listed on its agenda and made the necessary decisions about them.

'Aziz Interviewed on Outbreak of Gulf War

NC3105150691 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 30 May 91 p 11

[Second of three installments of interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by MILLIYET columnist Bulent Ecevit in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ecevit] I do not wish to recall the sad memory of the past. However, I have a question that has remained unanswered for many months now. UN Security Council Resolution No. 660, dated 2 August 1990, contained two main points. The first was a call for Iraq to immediately and unconditionally withdrawal from Kuwait. The second was a call for the commencement of intensive talks between Iraq and Kuwait for the settlement of their problems. However, the world's attention has been focused on the first point from the outset; nothing has been said about the second issue. [passage omitted]

I am curious to know whether the call for intensive talks was brought up in the lengthy meeting you had with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Switzerland a short time before the war began?

['Aziz] No, Baker did not mention it. We did not discuss the matter. However, let me tell you about what went on behind the scenes at the time. A number of Arab leaders and prominent Arab politicians made various initiatives from the beginning of the Gulf crisis until the press conference held by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz Al Sa'ud to pave the way for a meeting between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The statement made by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud was encouraging. We welcomed it and conveyed the message that we saw it as a positive sign.

The Son Contradicts the Father

[Ecevit] Do you mean to say that you were ready to hold talks?

['Aziz] We were always ready to hold talks with Saudi Arabia on the situation.

[Ecevit] But not with the Kuwaiti Administration. Is that right?

['Aziz] No, not with the Kuwaiti Administration, but with Saudi Arabia. However, you are aware that the Americans foiled the initiatives that were made for the talks.

I do not believe that a difference of opinion existed between King Fahd and Defense and Aviation Minister Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud on the matter. The difference of opinion was between American and Saudi officials. The Americans summoned Ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the son of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, to the State Department and forced him to make a disclosure that contradicted his father. They forced him to say "my father has not made that statement." Consequently, an official denial was secured. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] I have been unable to understand a point related to another aspect of the crisis. Can I ask you to enlighten me in that regard? During the early stages of the Gulf crisis, Iraqi sources disclosed the minutes of a meeting President Saddam Husayn held with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie in Baghdad a short time before the occupation of Kuwait. According to the minutes, Ambassador Glaspie created the impression that the United States was not concerned with the problems between Iraq and Kuwait. The U.S. State Department and the ambassador

were subjected to strong criticism by certain U.S. circles. They refrained from making a statement for many months. However, Ambassador Glaspie addressed a congressional commission after the war and stated that the minutes were wrong. She claimed that the minutes were edited to conceal the true nature of her comments to Saddam Husayn. If what the ambassador said is right, why did the Americans remain silent for so long? I do not understand this. Is there anything you can tell me in that regard?

['Aziz] I attended the meeting you are talking about. It was a normal meeting. President Saddam Husayn said nothing about the question of a military intervention in Kuwait. Therefore, the ambassador made no comment on such a possibility. We discussed the memorandum I conveyed to the secretary general of the Arab League. The memorandum said that we had serious complaints against the Kuwaiti Government. It was on this matter that the U.S. ambassador said "we will not interfere." Those who say that we regarded what the ambassador said as a green light indicating that the United States would not react against Iraq if it launched a military intervention against Kuwait are wrong. We expected a U.S. offensive on the morning of 2 August.

I mentioned this to James Baker in Geneva. He told me the following: "If you do not withdraw from Kuwait, you should know that we intend to attack Iraq." I informed him that we expected the United States to launch a military operation against Iraq from the beginning of the crisis. We did not regard what Ambassador Glaspie said as a green or yellow light by the United States. On the contrary, that was a matter that was debated among the Americans themselves. As far as the various departments of the U.S. Administration were concerned, the matter was a part of the war. The Americans attacked Ambassador Glaspie. They needed a scapegoat and they found one in the person of Ambassador Glaspie. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] You mean to say that you knew even before the occupation of Kuwait that the United States would intervene...

['Aziz] Yes, we were definitely aware of that.

[Ecevit] And, you took the risk...

['Aziz] Yes, we knew that the United States would react strongly. This was very clear. We made our preparations accordingly.

The U.S. ambassador acted in accordance with the instructions she received from her country. She gave us neither a green nor a red light. This was because the question of our presence in Kuwait was not discussed at the meeting. What my president said to the ambassador was this: "We are not against the United States. However, we have been hurt by Kuwait. We shall not tolerate this." [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] You were aware of the fact that the United States would launch a military opertion against the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq?

['Aziz] Of course we were aware of that fact. We expected a U.S. offensive on 2 August.

[Ecevit] In that case, did you not take a very serious risk?

['Aziz] You were in Baghdad at the time. Therefore, you probably knew that we believed that we had to react against the plot that was hatched against us.

Further on Interview

NC0106181591 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 31 May 91 p 11

[Final installment of interview with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Bulent Ecevit and Derya Sazak in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ecevit] If you had been able to visit Turkey, what would you have discussed?

['Aziz] We want to reestablish political relations with Turkey, and would have hoped to discuss this issue with sincerity, explaining our situation to Turkey and hearing its views.

We wish to have a pragmatic discussion with President Turgut Ozal and his government on the current situation.

It seems to me that President Ozal failed to properly assess the situation and thus arrived at some wrong conclusions.

For example, he openly indicated that Saddam Husayn should be replaced. This is not standard practice for a head of state, unless he has an ulterior motive. We would not have been surprised by a similar statement from President Bush, as everyone knows the U.S. position. Nor would we have found such a statement by John Major or Margaret Thatcher unusual. We did not expect, however, that the head of state of a neighboring country would say such a thing. President Ozal's assessment was wrong. [passage omitted]

Egyptian President Mubarak may have given President Ozal some bad advice when he visited Turkey a few days ago. Press reports have given me the impression that Mubarak advised President Ozal against improving relations with Iraq. This is not a good approach to take. President Mubarak himself approached the issue of improving his country's relations with Iraq the wrong way in the past. Like the other collaborators, he currently is trying to extract the greatest possible gain from this behavior. President Ozal made a mistake when he listened to Mubarak. [passage omitted]

[Ecevit] Turkish public opinion is increasingly convinced that it was wrong to send foreign military units and equipment to northern Iraq through Turkey.

['Aziz] This sets a very dangerous precedent, and could affect other countries should they find themselves in a situation similar to Iraq's.

We told the Turkish Government this because it has a similar problem. Although your problem has not yet become as serious as Iraq's, it may in the future. Only God knows what the future holds. Turkey has a number of minority peoples with their attendant problems. If a country in such a position allows an intervention in a

neighbor facing similar conditions, then it will have set a precedent for future action. In politics such behavior is described as shortsighted.

[Ecevit] My colleague Derya Sazak would like to ask you a question.

[Sazak] Would you like to give any message to my newspaper and to the Turkish people? What would you like to tell the Turkish Government and people in the event you visit Turkey in the near future?

['Aziz] Let me reiterate what I said to Mr. Ecevit. We wish to have open and pragmatic discussions with the Turkish Government. We are neighbors, and a number of problems have emerged in our once very favorable relations. Are we going to return to those relations or does the Turkish Government have a different plan?

We wish to restore our favorable relations, regardless of the Turkish Government's past behavior. We believe that good-neighborly relations among nations must be durable. We also believe that we should restore the traditional relations between our countries and remove all obstacles hindering this. Yes, this would be the main objective of my visit to Turkey.

[Ecevit] Thank you for this interview.

['Aziz] My pleasure. I would like to add that we are making progress in our talks with the Kurdish leaders. We are maintaining a contructive and understanding approach in our talks on their concerns, and we hope to reach an agreement in the near future.

Opposition Claims Saddam Assassination Attempt

NC0106163791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have stated that a daring attempt was made to assassinate the despot [Saddam Husayn] in March [as heard] while he was traveling to Tikrit to celebrate his birthday.

Iraqi opposition sources have learned that a commando unit of the national forces waylaid the despot's motorcade. The commandos, disguised as workers transporting sand and gravel, were riding in a large truck and a tractor spaced 200 meters apart.

The group in the truck opened fire with machine guns, hitting one of the escort cars. When the despot's car accelerated to save him from the ambush the motorade was surprised by the second group in the tractor, who fired an RPG, hitting the despot's armored car and killing one of his bodyguards.

Iraqi opposition sources said a large number of Ba'thists and discharged Armed Forces personnel were arrested after the incident, which itself was kept shrouded in complete secrecy.

The opposition sources added that this was not the first attempt to eliminate the insane dictator since the end of the Kuwait war. The Iraqi opposition pledged to the masses of the Iraqi people to continue this effort until victory is won and the sun of freedom and peace shines on Iraq.

Hammadi's Family Reportedly Sentenced to Death

NC0306140991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have affirmed that 25 relatives of the tyrant's prime minister, Sa'dun Hammadi, were sentenced to death in the city of Karbala' for participating in the popular uprising against the tyrant and his defeated regime.

The sources added that Hammadi's political future is now in jeopardy, because under the laws of the so-called Revolution Command Council, the conviction of any official's relatives, up to four times removed, on charges of high treason must be made public.

'Heavy Clashes,' Casualties Reported in North

TA0306170891 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] It is reported that heavy clashes took place between rebel forces and the security forces in Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Irbil in northern Iraq last night and

last week, and that at least 13 people were killed in those clashes.

ANATOLIA reports that rebel forces staged a demonstration in Dahuk last night in support of the allied forces' continued presence in the region. In a clash that erupted during the demonstration, four demonstrators and two Iraqi officials were killed. ANATOLIA reports that shots were fired from the Ba'th Party office in Dahuk during the demonstration, upon which the demonstrators attacked the building with stones and clubs.

Seven soldiers were reportedly killed in the clashes between the rebel forces and the Iraqi troops in Sulaymaniyah and Irbil last week.

Kurds Said Prevented From Returning Home

LD3105223191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 31 May 91

[Text] The Iraqi regime is creating obstacles for the Iraqi refugees returning home. According to the Voice of Revolution [Rebellious] Iraq, the Iraqi Army has set up checkpoints at the entrance to the city of Karkuk, stopping Kurds from entering the city and forcing them to leave their homes.

The radio says: The Iraqi opposition forces, in continuation of their operations against the Iraqi troops, have killed the commander of the 25th division and two of his companions.

Shamir To Tell Bush 'No More Concessions'

TA0406050991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Hayim Handwerker]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejects U.S. President George Bush's approach, detailed in his Sunday message, that the concessions being demanded of Israel are mere procedural matters on which Israel should not insist and which should not be allowed to interfere with the U.S. effort to implement its plan to convene a peace conference.

A senior source in the Prime Minister's Bureau said last night that in his reply to Bush, Shamir will point out that the government has gone a long way in agreeing to the concessions the United States had requested and will be able to make no more concessions. Shamir will not withdraw from the stand he voiced in the cabinet, according to which procedure is very significant, as it may turn into substance in later stages. Thus, the prime minister will not agree to any inclusion whatsoever of the United Nations in the conference or to the reconvening of the conference in the interval between its opening and closing sessions. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem said that Bush's letters are the last move prior either to the dispatch of invitations to a conference or to the end of the peace process. The responses he receives from the leaders of the region will determine whether President Bush, together with President Gorbachev, will send these leaders invitations to a conference. If the replies are basically negative, the President will announce that he is dropping the initiative and will point to the factors and elements that foiled it. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 4 June, in a related report by political correspondent Arye Golan, adds: "Sources in Jerusalem believe that Israel would issue a speedy and affirmative reply to an invitation from President Bush to an encounter in Washington or elsewhere."]

Shamir's aides estimated yesterday that he will prefer to delay his response until the Syrian reaction is issued, on the assumption that President al-Asad will reject President Bush's appeal, thereby drawing most of the blame for torpedoing the initiative. Foreign Minister David Levi's string of visits abroad is liable to make the drafting of a reply to Bush's letter more difficult. Levi will stay in Paris till the weekend for meetings with EC leaders and French officials. [passage omitted]

Shamir To Respond Soon

TA0406103891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir has pledged to respond to President Bush's message within a couple of days, despite the report this morning that the prime minister would prefer to wait to hear first the Syrian response to the letter sent by the U.S. President to Syria's Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

The prime minister has expressed disappointment of the current Secretary of State James Baker, who has apparently toughened his stands on the role for the United Nations in the regional conference. Shamir said Baker was more insistent on the UN issue in his most recent talks in Jerusalem than he was earlier. [passage omitted]

Shamir Says Egypt Not Helping Peace Process

TA0306114891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accused Egypt of not helping the peace process. During today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shamir said that every statement by Egyptian President Mubarak constituted either a criticism of Israel's policy or a personal attack on him. If he enjoys this, I do not care, but it does not help the peace process, Shamir said.

Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that Shamir said he did not think that King Husayn had come out with any practical proposal on a meeting with the Israeli leadership, but had rather made a statement in principle, similar to ones he has made in the past.

Shamir Comments on Meetings With King Husayn

TA0306143791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The prime minister does not deny that Israeli leaders conferred with King Husayn of Jordan in the past, and he expressed the hope that there will be successful meetings in the future. In reply to a question by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen on why the meetings in the past failed, Yitzhaq Shamir replied: People meet; mountains do not. A person meets with another person, and each meeting bears results. [passage omitted]

The prime minister pointed out that 66,000 Jews made the aliyah between the start of the year and the end of May, and over 250,000 came to live here since the start of 1990.

Shamir Opposes 'Jordan Is Palestine' Notion

TA0406112291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told members of the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset faction this morning that he opposes the idea that Jordan is Palestine, because Israel has no interest in having 'Arafat replace Husayn as Jordan's ruler. He also opposes raising the idea because he does not want to make Husayn even more hostile. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the meeting with the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members mainly dealt with coalition issues. [passage omitted]

Planes Return Safely After Raid Near Sidon

TA0406094791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Here is an announcement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: This morning, Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets some 5 km east of Sidon in

Lebanon. The targets were destroyed, and all our planes returned safely to their bases.

The targets that were attacked served as headquarters for Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and as depots for combat vehicles, artillery, and ammunition. It will be noted that this was the second raid by Air Force planes on Lebanon in the past 24 hours.

MK's Charge 'Huge' Building Drive in Gaza

TA0306152191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] MK's [Members of the Knesset] 'Oded Zucker and Hayim Oron disclosed that the Construction and Housing Ministry has also started a huge building drive in the Qatif block in the Gaza District. They said the ministry has started on work to add 2,000 housing units, which mean the addition of at least 10,000 people in an area populated by 3,000 settlers. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the two MK's demanded that the prime minister immediately stop the building in the Qatif block because there is no consensus among Israelis about the Gaza District.

Sharon Responds

TA0306181091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Knesset Members 'Oded Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement and Hayim Oron of MAPAM [United Workers Party] say the Housing Ministry has begun a huge construction project in the Gaza District. In response the Housing Ministry says the construction taking place in the area of 1,454 apartments in the 1990-91 period are intended for Israelis and immigrants are not being directed there. [passage omitted]

Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon told a news conference today that 4,500 apartments are being built in the administered territories this year and 9,000 will be build next year. Le'a Zinder asked him if this meant the establishment of new settlements or the expansion of existing ones:

[Begin Sharon recording] We believe that most of the construction is in existing towns and communities, and if there are goals that the government decided in the past or might decide in the future, then there will also be new. But, generally speaking, we speak about adding in existing towns. [end recording]

Sharon Notes Expansion of Jericho Settlement

TA0406065391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jun 91 p 10

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Ma'ale Adumim will be expanded eastward to the hills overlooking Jericho, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said yesterday.

In an exchange with reporters questioning his ministry's housing policy in Judaea and Samaria, Sharon maintained that the plan for Ma'ale Adumim's expansion originated under a Labor Party government.

He did not, however, give details about the ministry's plans or set a timetable for construction, saying only, "We plan to make Ma'ale Adumim a large city."

According to a map published by the Ma'ale Adumim City Council, the city extends as far as Mitzpe Yeriho, just outside Jericho.

Deputy Mayor Ben Greenberger said he had no knowledge of Sharon's plans to extend the city eastward, but noted that it was not out of the question.

Some 1,100 apartments are being built in Ma'ale Adumim, and construction will begin soon on another 3,000 units, Greenberger said.

King Husayn's LE POINT Interview Reported

JN0406061991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jun 91 pp 1,5

["Excerpts" of interview with King Husayn by unidentified LE POINT reporter on 11 May; place not given]

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Royal Court yesterday released the text of an interview which His Majesty King Husayn gave to the French magazine Le Point on May 11, and informed sources said there was nothing in the interview that suggested any change in the Jordanian position on the question of Arab-Israeli talks to solve the Palestinian problem and the Middle East conflict as a whole.

In the interview, which was published in the magazine on June 1, the magazine quoted the King as expressing willingness for face-to-face talks with Isreal.

Israelis interpreted that as meaning that Jordan had come around to Israel's view that direct talks were the way to make peace, but the informed sources said it was incorrect to interpret the King's remarks as breaking with the Arab view that negotiations should be through a Middle East peace conference.

"What the King said in the Le Point interview does not signal a change of policy," the informed sources said.

Following are major excerpts of questions and answers from the interview:

[LE POINT] From Your Majesty's discussions with the Americans what kind of final solution they are looking for?

[Husayn] I honestly cannot say what kind of "final solution." I don't like the term "final solution." However, there is a determination to move and try to resolve the problem. On the other hand, there are some realities that I hope will sink into the minds of all concerned. The problem is really such that it is not a localised, limited problem. It is the problem that requires very massive effort: People of goodwill who are interested and anxious to see progress should be engaged. We need for example in my view an educational process to really be extensively carried out. So if you take the Israeli dimension they have lived within a fortress, and they've lived within a fortress for a long time and with a fortress mentality; but I believe that many don't know what peace offers.

[LE POINT] Doesn't Your Majesty fear that the Americans might adopt the Israeli option for a settlement?

[Husayn] What we are seeking is a solution that will last, a solution of this problem that future generations can live with and can protect. So I have very serious doubts that despite the fact that maybe the military option, which may have been on the minds of some, is totally irrelevant now and has been removed from the scene for a long time to come. There is the other side of it and that is the danger that unless there is progress in a balanced way, I believe that the area could suffer great turbulence and extremism which could jeopardise not only all within this region, but the world as a whole. So, I haven't had the impression that the Americans are necessarily taking the Israeli option or supporting it.

[LE POINT] But doesn't Your Majesty fear that Jordan will be sacrificed for a Palestinian State?

[Husayn] Let's look at it realistically. Even that theory or approach... Why do I say the problem is a problem of much greater magnitude? Even assuming that this is the approach of some, (and) if we look at the map and you look at Jordan and Palestine including Israel and you look at the possibility that maybe in the minds of some that the problem could be resolved within these confines. I cannot honestly see how this land mass can absorb all the Jews of the world, those in Israel and those coming to Israel, all the Palestinians and all the Jordanians. This is physically impossible. Therefore, this is not an option—the option is really peace that opens so many doors for stability within the region, for people interreacting and for progress to be achieved. And on the other hand from my perspective there is another dimension that has to be addressed; it has been brought to the forefront in terms of what has happened recently when Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied it. We here in Jordan had to suddenly face the fact of over two hundred thousand who have lived all this life in Kuwait, coming back. Many of them have been in Kuwait for three generations, built Kuwait. So, what happens to these people in the future? Not the ones that we have here, but in a new context, a real general attempt to change the shape for things in the area where hopefully democracy, power-sharing is recognised to be an essential part of the life of any country. These people have to have their rights as well. Otherwise, you have a problem where Israel, if it chooses, expels people. But the same thing is happening regardless of the circumstances even within our own area and our own region. And I believe that Palestinians must feel that they are not a non-people. They are a people, they have their rights, human rights; they are respected everywhere and hopefully in the future they will be an element of stability in the region. Jordan is the only country throughout the many years.... that has chosen a path for which it was criticised at times. But Jordan is the only country that has given Palestinians its nationality, not jeopardising the final outcome. In other words, they could have conceivably in the future if we moved towards a solution, a dual nationality and the same should be applied elsewhere in the region. There are things that are not possible, nor do they make any sense in terms of trying to limit the problem and go step by step in the old way: The approach of the United States and others for example with regard to Egypt and Israel. We really need to look at all the aspects, all the elements and we are ready to do whatever we can; but we have to be open-minded; we have to be constructive; we have to have vision; and we have to secure rights for people so that we have real peace and a lasting peace in the region.

[LE POINT] Your Majesty mentioned the possibility of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. How do you see its perspective at present within a possible solution?

[Husayn] First of all, this is contingent on our receiving a very clear request from the Palestinians themselves, and we had been working with the PLO and we had reached an agreement and the PLO, as far as we are concerned, are the

address of the Palestinian people, regardless of all the attempts to portray the picture otherwise, whether it is a delegation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, combined with others. [sentence as published] Obviously we hope to achieve that. It is too early now to say but we will not impose ourselves; we will not be in a position to move beyond saying at this stage that we will be ready to look at a Palestinian request for us to form a joint delegation in which cases it will be a Palestinian and a Jordanian delegation. The Palestinian one will handle the Palestinian dimension of the problem with our support. But we will provide the umbrella if the Palestinians are persuaded that this is the only way out; we will look at it. We had such an agreement in 85. We can revive it and look at it and also regarding our future relations once peace is established.

[LE POINT] Many Palestinians in Jordan believe that the best thing for the future is a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state. What is your view?

[Husayn] This is the way that we had looked at in the past and if you go back to the very early 70's we had offered three options that if the territories were recovered either some form of a federation or in terms of facts...that would mean two local governments and a central parliament, and a central Government that would look after this new creation at that time. [the Arabic version of the interview cites the king as saying that it would mean "two local parliaments and two local governments as well as another central parliament and another central government"] We visualized that it would have amongst its responsibilities defence and foreign policy. The other option was an independent Palestinian state. The third option was the return to the union which I don't believe was feasible either then or now despite the fact that we are extremely close together. I believe people are attached to their identity and to their nationality, so to speak, even within the context of the family that we form here. So, that wasn't looked at very seriously at the time and in fact it caused us to suffer a lot but they were the three options then. And I believe in 85 that evolved to the idea of a confederation. But essentially it should be what I described at some point. I believe that somehow self-determination has to be brought into the equation, and whatever happens it has to be the result of the desire and will and conviction of Palestinians and Jordanians that this is the way to go. But there are these visions of the future and I think they are real and they could work.

[LE POINT] Under which conditions is Your Majesty ready to meet and talk with Israeli leaders?

[Husayn] I firmly believe that taboos and cliches have to be put aside. If we are convinced of where we are (and) we know what our case is and we have self-confidence and we have a sense of responsibility, then probably we should not be concerned or worried to talk to anybody at anytime. Anyway, it is early to speak of this but I believe it will have to come soon.

[LE POINT] But at this point in time is it useful to talk to Israeli leaders?

[Husayn] I believe regardless of whether it will happen or not, we are talking about a process now and we don't know exactly how it is going to develop or work out, or what the rules will be. But barriers sooner or later will have to disappear. I believe maybe in the future face-to-face contacts will dispel many of the fears both sides have of each other at an appropriate time.

[LE POINT] Does Your Majesty believe the new relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will help to find a solution or on the contrary there will be a tacit agreement between both on the status quo.

[Husayn] I have had a chance to talk with the Americans and with the Soviets recently, and I believe that essentially this development is a very interesting one. Hopefully it will be a constructive one. And both have their views. They may be close in some ways and this may be promising.

[LE POINT] How does Your Majesty describe present relations with the United States and is it that you will visit Washington very soon?

[Husayn] I honestly don't have anything at this moment to say that I will do so. I believe that a dialogue has begun with the United States again and a constructive one but it really depends on the way things go and I believe it is important and vital that at the very highest levels there is contact and a rejuvenation of the friendship and understanding that used to exist between us many years ago, and which deteriorated over a number of years reaching its lowest ebb during this recent crisis. But as to when and how meetings at the highest levels which will probably improve the atmosphere immensely and bring about understanding that is not something for me to decide, it's something that we will look at, anyway, I am sure we will have a clear picture of when and how in the immediate coming period. A dialogue has started in earnest and I think it looks promising, and the recognition that Jordan is a very, very important element of any process in this area not only on the Israeli dimension but within the region. As for the recent past, I believe that it is becoming clearer to people that we stood on principle: that we were against war, and before that we were against the occupation of Kuwait, we wanted to resolve the process peacefully and we were against all the consequences that have occurred in this region in terms of death and destruction, be it Iraq or in Kuwait. We were ever concerned with environmental problem that this globe has faced. So, we were never for the acquisition of territory by war, and this has been our stand regarding the Palestinian problem, throughout the years that have passed.

[LE POINT] The war is over. How does Your Majesty see the future of Saddam Husayn and the internal situation in Iraq?

[Husayn] That is purely an Iraqi dimension and I would not be able to comment on. But I certainly hope that it is clear that I am concerned for the Iraqi people to remain as one country, for the integrity of Iraq, and hopefully all the lessons of the past will result in a better future with regard to Iraq and a change of approach regarding many in the region in their own time.

But I really hope and pray for a determination to bring in more power sharing into every part of the Arab world, to bring in more democracy, more respect for human rights, more participation in government which are guarantees, in themselves, of mistakes not occuring again regardless of their nature, and at the same time if you look at the entire Arab world I believe very firmly that the future must be along the lines of the European experience and I hope we can put it together.

[LE POINT] A common market of the Middle East in 10 years from now?

[Husayn] Something like that, I hope it can happen.

[LE POINT] The fundamentalists are becoming stronger and stronger in Jordan. Doesn't this threaten the course of democracy?

[Husayn] I am very concerned for democracy in this country, and I am very determined to do everything I can do to avoid ...any threats to it because democracy has caused it to be able to stand together during the most difficult crisis we ever faced as we have recently, and this is certainly full of promise. But at the same time it is important that this succeeds here because its success will be a positive element in terms of the region as a whole and an example of something that can work. With the recent elections that brought the facts in which we live right now to being. We concentrated on the National Charter and we established a dialogue between all the different political schools of thoughts, and really in itself, it was a process of reconciliation, and the Charter is almost ready and I hope to see it become a reality very, very soon. But on the other hand, I believe that a great number of us here in Jordan are becoming more and more aware of the threat to a democracy if its real meaning is not known. I have always advocated the approach of retaining from our past the best characteristics of our nation and that identify as such but also opening up to the rest of the world. I believe there is no contradiction with religion in that regard. There may be a danger wherever religion is politicized and I hope this will not be the case here because if it is, then this is not faith and religion, and wherever it is politicized I believe people usually try to destroy religion and faith in the name of religion and faith and I don't think we will permit that to happen.

This parliament in Jordan has been chosen by the people of Jordan at a certain point in time. And I believe it has contributed positively in many respects, and in many areas. Buf it we are talking of the future and if we are talking about a charter that has been talked out by people representing all schools of thought in this country including many who represent the extreme right to the extreme left, then obviously, when the Charter is a fact, and all the freedoms are there, Jordanians will have the chance to take another look, and after all Parliament is a reflection of the people and their mood at a certain point in time. But in the future when new realities come into being, when the Charter permits the freedoms for all, I believe the situation will develop and evolve. In any event, I believe the experience of sharing power will also moderate the attitudes. It is one thing to be on the outside talking about hypothetical solutions that might be extreme or otherwise, and another thing to be within the picture and aware of what is happening.

Al-Masri Comments on King's LE POINT Interview

JN0306123791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1204 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] For the second consecutive day, Jordanian officials remained silent over the Israeli reactions to King Husayn's statement in which he welcomed a face-to-face meeting with Israel.

At the same time, official and popular media have failed to publish anything relating to Husayn's statements and the Israeli reactions. It has been learned from informed sources that the official Jordanian quarters will not comment and are not thinking of making any statements on what has been said by a number of Israeli officials, particularly Foreign Minister David Levi's invitation for Husayn to visit Jerusalem.

In a statement to our radio, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said that King Husayn's statements to the French magazine do not mean that he intends to visit Jerusalem. Al-Masri stressed that the matter concerns a comprehensive settlement and that the statements should not be taken and interpreted out of their general context.

Official Stresses Commitment to Boycott on Israel

JN0306071391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jun 91 pp 1, 18

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Qaq in Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordan affirmed yesterday its full adherence to the regulations governing the boycott on Israel and its rejection of any measure that could ease this boycott in any form.

Mr. Muhammad al-Ru'ud, the official responsible for the Israel Boycott Office, told AL-DUSTUR that Jordan is totally committed to the regulations of the Arab law on boycotting Israel and that it is fully abiding by the boycott resolutions.

He noted that Jordan is at the forefront of countries applying the boycott against all those who deal with the Israeli enemy whether companies, institutions, or others in accordance with the Arab boycott resolutions. [passage omitted]

Liberties Committee Protests Kuwaiti Practices

JN0106071191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Jun 91 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] The Public Liberties Committee at the Professional Associations Complex yesterday morning organized a sit-it in front of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman in protest against the torture, persecution, arbitrary harassment and mass arrests being practiced by the Kuwaiti

authorities against Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab citizens in Kuwait.

A number of political, professional, and popular figures participated in the sit-in. They submitted a memo addressed to the Kuwaiti Government in which they demanded stopping the human rights violations, assaults, and arrests being committed against Jordanian and Palestinian citizens in Kuwait.

They also demanded an end to all acts of deportation and exile, the release of all prisoners, and a thorough investigation into human rights violations in Kuwait by all international organizations that are concerned with human rights. The memo noted that these violations contradict the principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the provisions of the two UN agreements on political, civil, and economic rights, and all international agreements related to human rights. [passage omitted]

Syria's Al-Shar', Buwayz Hold News Conference

JN0306190391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1749 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Report on news conference by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Beirut 3 June; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Ministers Faruq al-Shar' and Faris Buwayz have held a news conference. Following are the proceedings:

Question: Israel seems to be unhappy about the treaty. There are reports it may commit aggression against Lebanon. What is the Syrian reaction?

Al-Shar' answered: It is quite obvious that Israel has always sought to dominate Lebanon. Israel's 1982 invasion was clear evidence of its real intentions. I can confidently say that the Lebanese people who have suffered destruction over a long period during the years of the civil war will deny Israel any pretext to realize its sinister aims. I am also confident that the international community will not sanction an Israeli invasion, especially given that Israel is now trying to obstruct a peace conference and also to torpedo the peace process sought by the international community.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] "This treaty, whose instruments of ratification we have exchanged, is now valid constitutionally and legally. We think the entire international community supports implementation of [UN Security Council] Resolution 425. Israel can give no justification or pretext to refuse to abide by Resolution 425 after the Lebanese Government managed to unite the Army and decided to dispatch military units to southern Lebanon."

Minister al-Shar' was asked if the security situation would lead to the imminent relase of Western hostages. The minister answered that it would certainly help in this.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] "The Lisbon meetings addressed two topics—the peace process and a Middle East peace conference, and U.S. ideas concerning arms control in the Middle East.

[Reporter] "Will [word indistinct] American peace efforts in the region?

[Al-Shar'] "The recent letter from President George Bush to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has led us to believe that the American side is still serious about convening a Middle East peace conference."

Asked how this treaty will help in the release of the Western hostages, particularly the British, al-Shar' said that any normalization of the situation in Lebanon will help, that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will help, and that Israel's release of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees will be very important and will also help. Asked if he was optimistic, al-Shar' said: I am not pessimistic.

[Reporter] "What is the Lebanese Government's position on the latest French statements?

[Buwayz] "The Lebanese Government has made its decision. It made the treaty decision out of its deep belief in Lebanon's interests in the Arab world. We believe that a more accurate understanding of this treaty will show it is in the interest of Lebanon and Syria, that this treaty regulates the national relations between the two countries, and that this treaty ends question marks about Lebanese-Syrian relations."

Asked how the treaty will help in the release of the British hostages and what the Lebanese Government will do about it, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: As al-Shar' said, any normalization of the situation in Lebanon will help. We are doing our best because we consider ourselves morally responsible for what happened in Lebanon. We hold talks with any side that can help in this regard.

Asked if he contacted Hizballah, Buwayz said: Some Lebanese officials are talking to Hizballah. Also asked if he believed that the visit of Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, would help in the release of the hostages, he said: We are awaiting this visit, and we will see if Mr. Hurd has something special about which we can talk. Until now, we have no information about the points we will discuss with him.

[Reporter] "What about America's position on the transfer of Falasha Jews to Israel and on the settlement process? They are now again discussing a settlement in the region. Do you trust the American position in light of its political cover for what Israel is doing in the region?

[Al-Shar'] "We trust in our ability to uncover every mistake and anything that fails to serve a just and comprehensive peace. As I have just said, we believe that the Americans are still serious, despite some shortcomings that we have mentioned in our statements and through our media regarding the transportation of the Falashas and America's views on arms control in the region. Our position is known to everyone."

LF Voices Position on Treaty With Syria

NC0306161791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] The Lebanese Forces [LF] Media Department has said that the LF's positions on national issues, particularly regarding the treaty with Syria, were expressed by its government representative, Minister Roger Dib, when he defined the LF position during the cabinet sessions.

The LF Media Department also pointed out that any information concerning LF policy is given out by the competent LF political and information departments, not by any other party or person.

Palestinians Say 2 Killed in 3 Jun Raid

NC0306141791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] According to Palestinian sources cited by AFP, the Israeli raid on the Fatah military intelligence command's general headquarters in the al-Hamshari area near al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp at noon today left two dead and eight wounded.

Fatah Spokesman Comments

NC0306155191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Three persons were killed and 11 were wounded today during an Israeli air raid on a Fatah position east of Sidon. An Israeli spokesman said that the aircraft attacked what he described as a Fatah terrorist center in al-Miyah Wa Miyah today.

AFP has said that, according to Palestinian sources, the Israeli raid, which targeted Fatah positions in the al-Hamshari area near the al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp, left two persons, a fighter and a woman, dead, and eight civilians wounded. The agency later added one dead and three wounded to the casualty list and said the raid targeted the general headquarters of the 'Arafat-led Fatah military intelligence command.

REUTER quoted security sources as saying that 10 people were either killed or wounded in the raid, which also destroyed the two- story building that was its target. A female civilian and two Fatah fighters were killed and seven fighters were wounded.

Commenting on the raid, Fatah representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah said: Today's raid is not the first and will not be the last, and we are always expecting one. He added: Israel will never implement the UN resolutions on southern Lebanon, and the United States does not want peace in the region.

4 Jun Israeli Air Raid in South Reported

NC0406065691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0646 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] In a telephone call a short while ago to the home of engineer Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, we were told that seven Israeli F-16 fighter planes raided positions in 'Abra al-Qadimah, Majdalyun, al-Salihiyah, and 'Ayn al-Mir at 0900 [0600 GMT]. During the 10-minute raid, the planes dropped 20 highly explosive missiles on positions belonging to the Popular Liberation Army and Palestinian organizations.

No reports are available yet on damages.

Further on Raid

NC0406072291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] About 30 minutes ago, four Israeli Skyhawk aircraft carried out a raid against a Palestinian general command position in the Majdalyun valley. Six casualties were reported. The Israeli enemy aircraft are overflying the area and drawing anti-aircraft fire.

The Israeli aircraft fired approximately 17 missiles during the radi. The aircraft were accompanied by three Phantom fighters which released thermal balloons.

Second Raid Reported

NC0406082091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Another raid was carried out by Israeli warplanes east of Sidon at approximately 1045 [0745 GMT] today. The targets of this raid were also positions belonging to Palestinians and the Nasirite Popular Organization in 'Abra al-Qadimah, Majdalyun, and al-Salihiyah.

Between the time of the first raid at 0915 [0615 GMT] and 1045, explosions echoed in the area because, according to our security correspondent, the Israeli planes dropped time bombs on the region. News media mistook the explosions for renewed raids.

25 Casualties Reported

NC0406085091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in the south reported a short while ago that Israeli aircraft carried out another raid against Palestinian positions in 'Ayn al-Mir and Sharhabil. He said that antiaircraft fire was directed at the aircraft. The preliminary casualty toll from the two raids is 25 dead and wounded. The casualties were moved to Sidon hospitals. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Training in Camps

NC0406112591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] AP cites security sources in the city of Sidon as saying that approximately 100 Palestinian fedayeen were training inside a camp belonging to the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group in Majdalyun, east of Sidon, when the Israeli warplanes raided the camp.

Israel admitted to the raids a short while ago. An IDF spokesman said eight raids were conducted against pro-Syrian and pro-'Arafat Palestinian positions.

A Palestinian source from Sidon said that the PLO military command in Lebanon met today to discuss developments in the Sidon area.

SLA Clashes Reported During Israeli Air Raid

NC0406112791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0820 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] While Israeli planes were raiding Palestinian positions east of Sidon, clashes raged from 1030 to 1100 along the Lib'a-Kafr Falu-'Ayn al-Mir lines between the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and various groups. Rockets and artillery were used in these battles.

Tutwiler's Statements on Lebanon Treaty Cited

JN2505204791 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 May 91

[Text] The U.S. State Department has announced that the Syrian-Lebanese treaty serves the interests of all states in the region. U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler asserted yesterday that the United States, which strongly supported al-Ta'if agreement and which supports Lebanon's safety and territorial integrity, also respects Lebanon's independence.

She explained that Syria and Lebanon have been trying to reach such a treaty for the past seven years. She said the United States does not agree with the notion that because of the new treaty, Lebanon will become part of greater Syria.

Al-Shar', Delegation Return From Beirut

JN0306170191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 3 Jun (SANA)—Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Dr. Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior; Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Damascus from Beirut this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Continued Peace Efforts

JN0406104191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jun (WAKH)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that the Damascus Declaration was the outcome of the unified positions and perspective of the eight signatories regarding the betterment of the Arab state of affairs and the realization of ties of cooperation within the framework of common interests and objectives in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. He affirmed that "this declaration did not reflect the emergence of a axis. It rather laid the foundations for Arab action at the current and future stages, while keeping the door open for all Arab states to join this declaration in these international circumstances which are witnessing substantial changes."

On possible developments in the Middle East conflict in case the Israeli intransigence is maintained to obstruct a just peaceful solution, the Syrian information minister told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD in statements published today that the attainment of peace or hampering it should not be hostage to the Israeli position, "despite the fact that the enemy leaders are applying various kinds of pressure to abort any peace efforts. The Gulf crisis has proved that the international will is capable of deterring and eliminating any aggression when it chooses to do so. We are working on the Arab and world scenes to help the world community reach a decision in this regard, defying the attempts to prevent this community from playing its role."

The Syrian minister expressed hope that the U.S. moves, based on the statement President Bush made to the effect that UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolutions 242 and 338 should be the basis for a peaceful Middle East settlement, will acquire greater effectiveness that befits the strength and resources of the United States of America, considering that it is a superpower which shoulders a great responsibility for safeguarding world security and peace from any violation of the UN Charter and UN resolutions.

With regard to the differences and points of agreement between Damascus on the one hand and Moscow and Washington on the other on how to resolve the conflict, the Syrian information minister said that given the current situation, the continuation of efforts to attain a just and comprehensive peace will narrow the gaps and differences on details, since the basis for everything should be the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338. In this regard, he indicated that his country and Moscow agree that the mechanism for their implementation should be a peace conference to be attended by the United Nations and Europe.

Iran

Radio Views Cheney Mideast Visit, Arms Issues

LD0106113491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to our dear listeners.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney arrived in Egypt from Israel yesterday on a new round of visits to the region. During his three-day visit to Israel, he arrived at a series of military-security accords with the Zionist regime's heads; all these center on U.S. commitments to guarantee Israel's long-term security through military support to that country.

Political experts believe that Cheney's visit to the region is an implicit declaration that the political efforts of Baker to establish agreement in the Middle East crisis—aimed at providing long-term security for Israel—met with failure.

The same experts also believe that the timing of Cheney's visit to Israel, coinciding with the Bush plan on limitations on weapons of mass-destruction in the Middle East, underlines a change in U.S. strategic priorities in the Middle East. According to previous strategy, a political solution to the Middle East crisis is preferred to enforcement of arms limitations; however, at present, in practice, provision for Israel's security through arms limitations has acquired priority.

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, the centerpiece of Washington's policy in the region was to remove the tension in the region. But when its political efforts to solve the Middle East crisis met with deadlock, Washington decided to prevent any kind of tension between the Arabs and Israel. Therefore, it sees the enforcement of arms limitations on the Arabs and also tipping the military balance in favor of Israel under the pretext of arms limitation as the best possible solution. This is because Bush's plan on arms limitation center on banning the sale of weapons of mass destruction to the region's countries. The natural outcome of such a policy is to retain Israel's superiority because she is the only arms manufacturing country in the Arab Middle East. Arab countries import almost all their weapons from abroad; thus, naturally they alone will be affected by the ban. [passage omitted]

U.S. guarantees for Israel's security, together with the delivery of 10 F-15 planes costing $60 million as military grant in aid to Israel and the provision of 72 percent of the budget for the second phase of research and manufacturing of the Arrow anti-missile missile as well as stockpiling of advanced U.S. weapons in Israel are parts of the Washington-Tel Aviv accord which have been revealed; all these guarantee Israel's decisive military superiority over Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Such a convoluted and devious policy on the part of America has already brought about negative reactions from a number of Arab countries including Syria, who has described that policy as a danger to the Arab's national security. [passage omitted]

Other political analysts see another side to Cheney's visit; they believe that it is intended to link Persian Gulf security to Middle East security. In his tour of the Persian Gulf three weeks ago, the U.S. defense secretary explored the region's security problems with the political leaders and military commanders of the Arab countries of the area. He also talked about stockpiling weapons in some of these countries. Though the ways and means of the relations between the security of the two regions in the U.S. plan have not yet been revealed, it is a point which Cheney is following in his present talks with the authorities of the countries he is visiting.

Majles Speaker Karrubi on U.S. Policy in Iraq

PM2805151891 Paris LE FIGARO in French 25-26 May 91 p 3

[Interview with Majles Speaker Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi by Claude Lorieux in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpt] Tehran—[Introductory passage omitted]

[Lorieux] Saddam Husayn has been weakened but he is still president of Iraq. Are you going to have to get used to living with him?

[Karrubi] The United States does not want the Islamic people's forces to seize power in Baghdad. Washington has therefore helped the Baath Party to stay in power. It will also help Saddam Husayn to survive for a time. On the other hand, the states in the region, and the Arab countries, no longer want Saddam Husayn. They want him to be deposed. There is reason to think that he will be deposed but that the Baath Party will remain.

[Lorieux] How do you think the United States has helped the Baath Party to stay in power?

[Karrubi] In the first few days of the Iraqi revolution, America said that it would not interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and that it was up to the Iraqi people to choose their government and punish Saddam Husayn.

When the agitation spread, the United States, while confirming that attitude, announced that it would not allow Iraqi planes to attack the insurgents.

But Washington then allowed that to happen. The helicopters and fighters bombed civilians. Some 1.5 million of them took refuge in Turkey and Iran. The Iraqi army violated the Shiite sanctuaries of al-Najaf and Kerbala'. It was discovered that the Americans were very critical of the Islamic resistance in Iraq and that they did not want the Baath Party to collapse. The United States is only pursuing its own interests.

[Lorieux] Iran has not done much to help the Iraqi rebels!

[Karrubi] We are helping the victims of Baathist repression politically and culturally. But we do not plan to support them militarily. That would be improper. What

you are suggesting we do is interfere im Iraq's internal affairs. We do not want that. We want the Iraqi people to solve their own problems.

[Lorieux] What about Iran? Since the invasion of Kuwait, Presidemt Rafsanjani has strengthened his internal position. Is the opposition not on the defensive?

[Karrubi] Our whole society condemned the presence of foreign forces in the region. Our policy was one of neutrality. Some Iranian politicians oppose that: They are asking not that we should support Saddam but that we should fight the Americans. There is freedom of speech in Iran. But, do not be deceived, these discordant calls are coming from both sides of the political chessboard. They are heard at Friday prayers (platform for the government team—LE FIGARO editor's note) and in the Majles (where the radicals are well represented) The important thing is that the calls are coming from both sides. The Majles supports President Rafsanjani.

[Lorieux] And yet the opposition secured the health minister's resignation before unsuccessfully trying to secure the education minister's resignation.....

[Karubbi] It is natural that the deputies should disagree with some ministers. But do not say that the Majles as a whole supports those attacks. The criticisms do not just come from one party but from all—the radicals and the others.

[Lorieux] President Rafsanjani is due to visit France this year. What is the purpose of that visit—his first to the West?

[Karrubi] Our relations are good. Our finance ministers are due to meet in both capitals to settle outstanding financial problems. We also have political negotiations under way. Despite your participation in the Iraqi war effort between 1980 and 1988, we do not have negative memories of France. Moreover, Ayatollah Khomeyni lived in France.

I would also like to stress that we draw a distinction between France and Britain. London and Tehran must, of course, maintain relations. But the Iranian people have bad memories of Britian.

[Lorieux] What benefit does Iran still derive from the detention of hostages, notably American hostages, in Lebanon by groups which draw their inspiration from your revolution?

[Karrubi] We are opposed to hostage-taking. We are trying to secure the release of the hotages—all the hostages. If groups which support the Islamic revolution are holding hostages, we are trying to persuade them to release them. But we are also insisting on the need for the release of the hostages held in Lebanon be they Lebanese like Shaykh 'Ubayd, or Palestinians, or even the Iranian diplomats who were abducted in Beirut years ago.

[Lorieux] Iran is changing. The Revolutionary Guards have come under the defense minister's control. The caricatures of Reagan, Mitterrand, Thatcher, and Saddam Husayn have disappeared from the walls of Tehran airport. I have never seen so many neckties in the street! Has your revolution grown wiser?

[Karrubi] The Revolutionary Guards, the Army, and the police are under the authority of the Revolution Guide—Ayatollah Khamene'i. The Pasdaran (Guards) are coordinating their action with the Army. But it is a different body and their mission is clear. The only change is that ranks have now been introduced into the Pasdaran.

The disappearance of the caricatures is not a widespread phenomenon. It may be the work of some propaganda organization or another. This does not mean that our policy has changed.

With regard to neckties, I have not noticed as many as you! They were not banned. They obviously are not banned. It is just that neckties are foreign to our Islamic culture, and that is why we do not like them.

Our policy has not changed and the revolution is far from over.

Optimism Toward U.S. Termed 'Foolish, Treacherous'

LD0106185991 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 1 June 91

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi today termed any optimism towards the United States as "foolish and treacherous", asking "how can the U.S. be considered a friend in view of all its crimes?"

Speaking to a group of university students here, Hoj. Karrubi said the Islamic Republic system should act in such a way that opportunist elements who are optimistic towards Washington "do not dare interfere in the affairs of the country."

Turning to the second passing away anniversary of the father of the Islamic Revolution (June 4), he said Imam Khomeyni formally launched his movement with the culmination of the U.S. political stranglehold on Iran in 1341 (1962), and warned Muslims that Islam and the country was in danger.

By serving as "a base for the Zionists and the U.S.," recalled the speaker, "Iran had become an object of shame for the Muslims during the previous regime."

However, Muslims now have a global duty to stand against the global arrogance and Zionism, he added.

The late Imam Khomeyni sowed the seeds of the Islamic movement throughout the world and introduced Islam as a dynamic movement, which fact, noted Hoj. Karrubi, has "frightened" arrogance.

"The imam's struggle was for the glory of Islam, unity of Muslim countries, preservation of the country's independence and eradication of the Zionists from the region."

He said the values of the revolution should not be allowed to diminish, because the Islamic Revolution belongs to all the world Muslims, and "the ummah is dutybound to safeguard the Islamic revolution in return."

Reportage on Velayati Visit to Brazil

WA3105180591

For reportage on the visit to Brazil by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, including reports on his meeting with Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Rezek to discuss bilateral relations and Persian Gulf issues, see the Brazil section of the 31 May Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Velayati Returns

LD0206100691 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home from Brasilia Sunday morning at the end of a two-day official visit and talks with Brazilian officials.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, Velayati said that his Brazilian counterpart Francisco Rezek is to return his visit in autumn to be followed by a visit of Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello.

According to Velayati Brazil enjoys great potentials in the fields of industry, agriculture and technology and is an advanced third world country with massive experience in renovation and reconstruction programs.

He added that Tehran-Brasilia cooperation is within the framework of South-South cooperation among the Third World countries.

More on his visit, he said the two sides agreed on abolishment of visa requirements for diplomatic and service passports before the end of June. The move will help facilitate trips by the officials of the two countries with the aim to materialize joint programs.

According to the foreign minister a ranking Brazilian experts delegation is due in Tehran in June to follow up the preliminary agreements reached between Tehran and Brasilia.

Agreement was also reached on holding of a joint session of foreign ministers of Iran and the Latin American countries during the United Nations General Assembly's annual session in New York next September, Velayati said. The meeting will be a major step towards international and political cooperation, he added.

Reporters Told of Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0206100291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] A group of foreign reporters, photographers, and cameramen went to the Iran-Iraq border strip north of Qasr-e Shirin yesterday afternoon to inspect [as heard] instances of cease-fire violations by Iraqi forces. According to the Central News Unit's correspondent, during the inspection tour of the group, which was made up of people from Britain, Japan, France, Italy, China and Turkey, two Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and army commanders described to them cases of cease-fire violations by Iraqi forces in the Qasr-e Shirin and Khosravi regions.

Habibi Urges Payment of Reparations by Iraq

LD0206162991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Cyprus met and conferred with First Vice President Habibi this afternoon. At this meeting, the Cypriot deputy foreign minister referred to the friendly relations between the two countries and their membership of the Nonaligned Movement, and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its principled stances during the Persian Gulf crisis and after it. He also described the hospitality given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to over 1 million Iraqi refugees as the greatest humanitarian lesson for the world community in history.

First Vice President Habibi, describing the things that the two countries have in common, then declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in expanding bilateral relations in all fields, including trade and economic ties.

He added: Discussions and talks concerning disarmament and arms limitation in the Middle East and the conversion of Israel into an arsenal require a greater exertion of efforts by and greater cooperation among the members of the Nonaligned Movement.

With regard to the full implementation of the clauses of Resolution 598, Mr. Habibi said: We will not overlook our rights. We are seeking to have the international community explicitly name the aggressor and to take steps concerning the reparations to be paid to Iran. He added: The international community also has to count the cost incurred as a consequences of the arrival of over 1 million Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran as part of the war reparations of the recent crisis which Iraq has to pay.

Rafsanjani Sends Message to Khamene'i

LD0306160291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Following the important message of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, to the unified Iranian nation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sent a message to the leader of the Islamic revolution thanking him for his firmness and decisiveness in determining the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran and for his invaluable guidance.

The text of the president's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, great leader of the revolution, may your blessings continue. The Islamic nation has seen a reflection of the thought, words, firmness, and decisiveness of the late imam in your message. [passage omitted]

I am certain that the satanic attempts to disgrace the shining visage of the system and the path of the imam

have been blocked to a great degree. No doubt, thanks to these clear and unembellished instructions, our aware and revolutionary nation will pay no attention to the evil cries of spiteful owls who see it as in their interests to defame our Islamic system and to attempt to spoil the sweetness of our victories and create disunity in our solid ranks. Unified and united, the forces of the revolution will stand behind their esteemed leader and advance toward our Islamic goals. [passage omitted]

[Signed] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani